(b) While the Radio Stations at Tuticorin and Karaikal are technically ready, the Radio Station at Ootacamund will be ready in the near future. All these stations will be commissioned into service once the minimum essential staff required for their operation and maintenance is in position.

**Censure of obsence and violent scenes in Indian films**

972. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the members of Censure Board of Films of various languages of India and the criterion, instructions and guidelines issued in this regard from time to time to them during the last three years;

(b) whether the Censure Boards are perfoming their duties upto expectation; and

(c) what stern and concrete steps have been taken by Government to check obscene, nude and violent scenes in Indian films especially in Hindi films and to encourage production of patriotic, social and artistical films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) There is only one Central Board of Film Certification. The Board was reconstituted w.e.f. 7th October, 1991. The names of the members and the States to which they belong are given in Statement (See below).

While examining films for certification, the Board is guided by the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and the Guidelines issued thereunder. A copy of the Guidelines issued on 6-12-91 is given at Statement II (See below):

(c) Production of feature films in India is largely in the private sector and Government have no control as such thereon. However, only such films as have been certified by the Board in the light of the Guidelines prescribed for certification of films can be exhibited to public. According to these Guidelines, while examining films, the Board shall *inter-alia* ensure that:—

(i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;

(ii) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scences as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;

(iii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity. Any part of the film which violates any one or more of the Guidelines is deleted before certificate is granted. Where a film is considered not suitable for exhibition to non-adults, it is granted 'A' certificate, whose exhibition is restricted to adults only. If the objectionable impact cannot be removed by delations, the film is refused a certificate. Instructions have also been issued to the Regional Officers of the Board to ensure that the Guidelines are scrupulously followed, particularly relating to sex and violence.

In order to make the censorship provisions more effective, a Bill to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 18-8-1992.

Government always encourage production of good quality films in India. With this end in view, Government has initiated annual National Film Awards in different disciplines of cinema. National Film Development Corporation, a public sector undertaking under this Ministry, gives loans for production of good quality films and also takes up production of good films on its own.

**Statement-I**

*Present Composition of Central Board of Film Certification*

| S. No. | Name | | States to which they belong (Domicile) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Shri Shakti Samanta | Chairman | Maharashtra |
| 2 | Shri N. D. Kothari | Member | Maharashtra |
| 3 | Smt. Pranayini Munshi | Member | Maharashtra |
| 4 | Smt. K.H. Bhansali | Member | Maharashtra |
| 5. | Smt. Devaki Muthiah | Member | Tamil Nadu |
| 6 | Shri A.V.M. Balasubramaniam | Member | Tamil Nadu |
| 7 | Shri V. R. Venkatachalam | Member | Tamil Nadu |
| 8 | Smt. Hema Choudary | Member | Karnataka |
| 9 | Shri Sabitabrata Datta | Member | West Bengal |
| 10 | Shri Harsh Kumar Neotia | Member | West Bengal |
| 11 | Shri Sebibrata Gupta | Member | West Bengal |
| 12 | Smt. Polly Ayyappa | Member | Karnataka |
| 13 | Shri C.V.I. Sastri | Member | Karnataka |
| 14 | Shri Basneer M. Picha | Member | Kerlala |
| 15 | Shri T. Subbarami Reddi | Member | Andhra Pradesh |
| 16 | Shri J. Bhaskara Rao | Member | Andhra Pradesh |
| 17 | Shri K. L. Jain | Member | Rajssthan |
| 18 | Shri Lachman Singh | Member | Rajasthan |
| 19 | Smt. Sara Mohammed | Member | New Delhi |
| 20 | Smt. Urvashi Talwar | Member | New Delhi |
| 21 | Shri Amar Singh | Member | New Delhi |
| 22 | Shri Zuber Khan | Member | Rajasthan |
| 23 | Nawab Zafar Jung | Member | New Delhi |
| 24 | Smt. Kamala Mankekar | Member | New Delhi |
| 25 | Prof. B. B. Das | Member | Orissa |
| 26 | Prof. Satya Prasad Barua | Member | Guwahati |

**Statement-II**

*THE BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION SHALL BE GUIDE BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:—*

1. *The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that-—*

(a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;

(b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;

(c) certification is responsive to social change;

(d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and

(e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically or a good standard;

2. *In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that:*

(i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;

(ii) the modus operandi of criminals, other visuals of words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted;

(iii) Scenes:—

(a) showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witnesses to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;

(b) showing abuse or ridicule of physically and mentally handicapped persons; and

(c) showing cruelty to, or abuse of animals, are not presented needlessly;

(iv) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;

(v) scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;

(vi) scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction are not shown;

(vii) Human sensibilites are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

(viii) such dual meaning words as obviously cater to baser instincts are allowed;

(ix) scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;

(x) scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation, or scenes of a similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xi) scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xii) visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented;

(xiii) visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented;

(xiv) the sovereignty and integrity of India is not called in question;

(xv) the security of the State is not jeopardised or endangered;

(xvi) friendly relations with foreign States are not strained;

(xvii) public order is not endangered;

(xviii) visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals, or contempt of court are not presented;

EXPLANATION: Scenes that tend to create scorn; disgrace or disregard of rules or undermine the dignity of court will come under the term 'contempt of court'; and

(xix) National symbols and emblems are not shown except in accordance with the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 (12 of 1950).

3. *The Board of Film Certification shal also ensure that the film:—*

(i) is judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impact; and

(ii) is examined in the *light* of *the* period depicted in the film and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relates, provided that the film does not deprave the morality of the audience.

4. *Films that meet the above mentioned criteria but are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audiences only.*

(i) While certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family, including children can view it together.

(ii) If the Board having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of twelve years may be allowed to see such a film, the film shall be certified for unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement to that effect.

(iii) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that the exhibition of the film should be restricted to members of any profession or any class or persons, the film shall be certified for public exhibition restricted to the specialised audiences to be specified by the Board in this behalf.

The Board shall scrutinise the titles of the films carefully and ensure that they are not provocative, vulgar, offensive or violative of any of the above mentioned guidelines.

**Newspapers in India**

973. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will he Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many newspapers are published in the country;

(b) what is the periodicity of their publication;

(c) how many of them are dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies; and

(d) what are the details thereof; language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) A total of 33,330 newspapers/periodicals stand registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 31.12.1991. The details are given in Annexures (*See* Appendix CLX VIII Annexure No. 17 and 18)

**Decontrol of Newsprint**

974. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to decontrol newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering the Kelkar Committee recommendations and also propose to implement its report in toto, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would review the newsprint import policy, if so, what are its remifications?

TH MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH